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## Differentiation of Self and Leadership Effectiveness in Christian Clergy: A Mixed Methods Study.

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**Meinecke, D. B. (2014).** *Developing servant-leaders through service-learning at a southwest Christian university: A quasi-experimental study.* Ph.D., Dallas Baptist University.

This study investigated the effectiveness of service-learning as pedagogy for developing servant-leaders. Participants included 97 students at a faith-based southwest Christian university. Fifty-seven of the participants were enrolled in a 15-week service-learning course (experimental group) and 40 participants were enrolled in similar non-service-learning courses (comparison group). All participants completed the Servant Leadership Questionnaire (SLQ) as a pretest and posttest during the semester. Demographic information was collected in order to determine the participants' age, gender, grade level, major, previous leadership training, and previous number of service-learning courses. Findings indicated that a student's major or group (experimental or comparison) made no significant difference in the posttest SLQ scores. The results of this study demonstrate that students in a 15-week service-learning course failed to demonstrate servant leadership development at a greater rate than students who do not participate in 15-week service-learning courses. The discussion considered the impact of a small sample size, the number of previous service-learning courses and leadership development training opportunities, and the servant leadership culture of the university as factors leading to the lack of significance in the testing.

**Spain, M. A. (2014).** *Changing the world through servant leadership.* Ph.D., Pepperdine University.

This historical case study recognizes the leadership of Eunice Kennedy Shriver and analyzes the supposition that she was a servant leader. Shriver had the vision that became the Special Olympics movement that transformed the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and their families and communities worldwide. The fact that under the leadership of Shriver the Special Olympics achieved global success makes a study of her leadership style significant to the field of organizational leadership. This qualitative case study sought to determine if leadership behaviors of the research subject, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, exemplified the 10 characteristics (behaviors) of servant leadership as defined by Robert Greenleaf (1970) and Larry Spears (1995, 1998b).

**Wasberg, G. D. (2013).** *Differentiation of self and leadership effectiveness in Christian clergy: A mixed methods study.* Ph.D., Capella University.

Churchgoers, pastors, and denominational hierarchies are becoming increasingly dissatisfied with clergy leadership effectiveness, and pastors are experiencing higher than expected levels of burnout and emotional exhaustion. Because of this, clergy and congregational leaders need a leadership paradigm that provides a framework for leading in highly relational contexts such as religious organizations that also addresses the leader's need to maintain emotional health and psychological well-being. This study utilized a mixed-methods approach to examine the relationship between self-differentiation and leadership effectiveness among 97 pastors

DISSERTATION NOTICES

in leadership positions from a variety of Christian religious denominations. Participants completed the Differentiation of Self and Role for Clergy and the Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire. Study results suggest that pastors performing in leadership roles have higher levels of self-differentiation than pastors performing in non-leadership roles and that self-differentiation was moderately and positively correlated with the transformational leadership components of intellectual stimulation and individualized consideration. For the qualitative portion of the study, 14 pastors participated in telephone interviews about their experiences of self-differentiation in leadership roles. Utilizing the-

matic analysis, nine distinct themes emerged: precipitating event, "Aha" moment, self-regulating, systemic awareness, self-in-role, take a stand, use of self-in-system, lead through connection and inclusion, and followers first. Qualitative results suggest that higher self-differentiation is related to pastors' use of self-regulation of emotion, experiential learning, awareness of social context, and willingness to accept risk in exchange for progress. Higher levels of self-differentiation may contribute to the leader's ability to develop and maintain emotional connections with followers during times of conflict or disagreement.

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